

Virginia Recreational Fishing Advisory Board
C/O Jack Travelstead /Sonya Davis

8 March 2007

Virginia Marine Resources Commission
2600 Washington Avenue
Third Floor
Newport News, VA 23607

Dear Recreational Fishing Advisory Board Members:

As a recreational fisherman I would like to take this opportunity to express my views on the various projects seeking license fund support during the Spring 2007 cycle. I would like to thank you for the excellent job you have done representing the interest of recreational fishermen in the state of Virginia.

Multi-Year Projects for Renewal.

A) 2007 Sunshine Children's Fishing Program. Denny Dobbins, Portsmouth Anglers Club. \$7,194. **SUPPORT**

B) 2007 Saxis & Morley's Wharf Fishing Pier Youth Fishing Tournaments (Year 6). Allen Evans, Eastern Shore of Virginia Anglers Club. \$2,500. **SUPPORT**

C) 2007 Early Summer Children's Fishing Program. Melvin Dudley, Northampton County Anglers Club. \$1,100. **SUPPORT**

D) Artificial Reef, Funding for Deployment of Structure 2006-2007. Mike Meier, VMRC. \$150,000. **SUPPORT**

E) Visual Function in Chesapeake Bay Sport and Prey Fishes: Summer Flounder, Bluefish, Cobia, and Atlantic Menhaden (Year 2). A. Horodysky, R. Brill, R. Latour, VIMS. \$50,289. **SUPPORT**

F) Estimating Relative Abundance of Young-of-Year American Eel, *Anguilla rostrata*, in the Virginia Tributaries of Chesapeake Bay (Year 7). Marcel Montane, VIMS. \$36,325. **DO NOT SUPPORT**

G) Enhancing Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Habitat: Research and Education for Restoration (Year 13). Robert Orth, VIMS. \$95,689. **DO NOT SUPPORT**

H) Estimating Relative Juvenile Abundance of Recreationally Important Finfish and Crustaceans in the Virginia Portion of Chesapeake Bay. M. Fabrizio, M. Montane, VIMS. \$469,568. **PARTIAL SUPPORT, NO MORE THAN 1/2 OF STATED REQUEST, COMMERCIAL SECTOR SHOULD EQUALLY SUPPORT**

New Projects.

I) Virginia Marine Sportfish Collection (Year 1). J. Grist, VMRC. \$12,000. **SUPPORT**

J) SAS Licensing and Training for VMRC Technical Staff. Joe Grist, VMRC. \$38,500. **PARTIAL SUPPORT, NO MORE THAN 1/2 OF STATED REQUEST, COMMERCIAL SECTOR SHOULD EQUALLY SUPPORT**

K) Quinby Harbor Enhancements. David Fluhart, Quinby Harbor Committee, Accomack County. \$352,950. **SUPPORT**

L) Saxis Fishing Pier Expansion. Charles Tull, Mayor, Town of Saxis. \$132,107. **SUPPORT**

M) 2007 Hope House Fishing Excursion and Clinic. D. Hurst, C. Macin, Great Bridge Fisherman's Association. \$2,500. **SUPPORT**

N) Abundance, Distribution and Biology of Sharks and Rays in Chesapeake Bay and Virginia's Coastal Lagoons: Continuation of a Long-term Monitoring and Research Program. D. Grubbs, J. Musick, VIMS. \$89,073. **DO NOT SUPPORT**

O) Response of Summer Flounder to Hypoxia in Chesapeake Bay: Physiological Tolerances and Shifts in Habitat Use. M. Fabrizio, R. Brill, VIMS. \$99,721. **DO NOT SUPPORT**

P) Effects of Piscivorous Fishes on Local Juvenile Game Fish Populations. P. McGrath, J. Musick, VIMS. \$45,530. **DO NOT SUPPORT**

Q) Laboratory Investigations of the Ability of Striped Bass to Function under Low Ambient Oxygen Conditions. R. Brill, D. Gauthier, VIMS. \$81,468. **DO NOT SUPPORT**

R) Estimate and Assess Social and Economic Importance and Value of Menhaden to Chesapeake Bay Stakeholders and Region (3 Year Study). James Kirkley, VIMS. \$1,127,235 Amended to \$788,284 (Year 1 request = \$363,403). **PARTIAL SUPPORT, THE COST SHOULD BE EQUALLY SHARED BY COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL**

Discussion of Budget Amendments for a Previously Contracted Access Project: Conversion of a Protective Wavescreen into a Saltwater Fishing Pier. Michael Nealer, City of Newport News. The original 2004 request was for \$170,250. The new request is for an additional \$148,125, totaling \$318,375 from VSRFDF. The RFAB requested that the City of Newport News also investigate the additional cost of lighting for the fishing pier. The estimate to add lighting is \$111,066 (\$83,299 from VSRFDF). **SUPPORT**

Discussion to Increase the Operating Budget of the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament. The current operating budget is \$199,000. The request is for an additional \$15,000 for this year and subsequent years. **SUPPORT**

I appreciate the opportunity to express my views on the disbursement of our state's recreational saltwater license funds.

Thank you for your consideration.

David Agee

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